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Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9909
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6515

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS: SUBCOMMISSION ON
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) BEGAN DELIBERATIONS AT ITS 6TH ANNUAL SESSION MONDAY, AUGUST 1. WG MEMBERS PRESENT WERE: SERGEI SMIRNOV (USSR), KOFIE SEKYIAMAH (GHANA), E. NAVARRO-RICHARDSON (NICARAGUA), BEV CARTER. MR. PIRZADA (PAKISTAN) IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THURSDAY, AUGUST 4. SEKYIAMAH WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN RAPPORTEUR.

2. HRD DIRECTOR THEO VAN BOVEN SAID THAT DIVISION HAD PROCESSED 18,442 COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO 76 U.N. MEMBER STATES AND 2 NON-MEMBERS. THIS COMPARES WITH COMMUNICATIONS TOTALING 54,510 IN 76, 3,691 IN 75, 9,134 IN 74, AND 7,449 IN 73. THE DECREASE SINCE 76 IS DUE TO THE SHARPE DECLINE IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS ON CHILE, WHICH LAST YEAR'S GROUP EXAMINED. (FYI: THERE WERE 47,000 MASS COMMUNICATIONS IN 76 ON CHILE AS AGAINST 8,000 THIS YEAR.

3. VAN BOVEN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN AN INCREASE OF OVER 100 PERCENT ON SUBSTANTIVE INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS AND THAT MOST OF THESE COMPLAINTS INVOLVED PERSONS
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SEEKING U.N. ASSISTANCE IN LEAVING THEIR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE AND ARBITRARY ARRESTS OR DISAPPEARANCES. IT APPEARS FROM THE EARLY EXAMINATION OF THE MATERIALS, THAT THE COMPLAINTS ARE MUCH BETTER DOCUMENTED THIS YEAR AND MANY CONTAIN BULKY ANNEXES.

4. THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT REPLIES

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TO COMPLAINTS DESPITE APPEALS BY THE SUBCOMMISSION AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. THIS YEAR THERE ARE 129 REPLIES FROM 36 GOVERNMENTS; IN 76 THERE WERE 128 REPLIES FROM 33 GOVERNMENTS; 136 REPLIES FROM 28 GOVERNMENTS IN 75, 150 REPLIES FROM 25 GOVERNMENTS IN 74; AND 122 REPLIES FROM 29 GOVERNMENTS IN 73. AMONG THE REPLIES IN THIS YEAR'S GROUPING, 79 ANSWERED NEW COMPLAINTS, 58 RELATE TO OLDER COMPLAINTS, AND 8 ADDRESS BOTH NEW AND OLD COMPLAINTS.

5. WG HAS DIVIDED ITS WORK ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: SEKYIAMAH IS EXAMINING COMPLAINTS WHICH FALL UNDER ARTICLES 2 AND 7 OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION; RICHARDSON, ARTICLES 3 AND 5; SMIRNOV, ARTICLES 13 AND 11 (FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, HIS ANNUAL UNDERTAKING) AND CARTER, ARTICLES 9, 10 AND 11 (ARBITRARY ARRESTS, ET AL). ARTICLES 18, 19 AND 20 ARE BEING RESERVED FOR PIRZADA. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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